

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 034680

R 111111 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3111
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7470

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TH

SUBJECT: THANAT LETTER

REF: A. BANGKOK 7378 B. BANGKOK 6912 C. BANGKOK 6747

1. THANAT'S LETTER (TEXT FORWARDED BY REF A) WILL KEEP
ALIVE PRESS PLAY WHICH FIRST AROSE FROM THANAT'S ALLE-
GATIONS ON INTRODUCTION US MARINES IN 1962. PRAPHAT'S
REMARKS ON THOSE ALLEGATIONS WERE FORWARDED PARA 5
REF B.

2. BY HIS COUNTER- ATTACK ON PRAPHAT, WHOSE NAME IS
USED IN FIRST SENTENCE OF THANAT'S LETTER, THANAT
FURTHER DISTANCES HIMSELF FROM RTG. AS REPORTED PARA
4 REF C THANAT HAD EARLIER IMPLIED THAT PARPHAT WAS
" CHILDISH".

3. BY CRITICIZING PRAPHAT IN DIRECT MANNER, THANAT
HAS CHALLENGED A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT. PRAPHAT HAS BOTH
THE POWER AND CAPABILITY TO HANDLE THE LOCAL PRESS IN
SUCH A MANNER THAT THANAT WILL MOST LIKELY COME OUT
SECOND BEST. EMOTIONALISM OF THANAT'S ATTACK AND
PETTY CHARACTER OF POINTS HE MADE WILL IN LONG RUN
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WEAKEN HIS POSITION. GIVEN THANAT'S THIN SKIN, HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT MORE SUCH OUTBURSTS.

4. REACTION TO THANAT'S SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO APPEAR IN THAI PRESS. PHIM THAI EDITORIAL MAY 10 TITLED "CRITICIZING ONESELF" SAID CRITICISM OF US MILITARY PRESENCE "IS NOT EXTRAORDINARY" BECAUSE PERSON DOING IT IS "NONE OTHER THAN FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF". PIECE ASKS WHY THANAT DID NOT OPPOSE WHILE IN OFFICE OR RESIGN AND CONTINUES THAT HIS CARPING NOW SHOWS HE "HAS NO POLITICAL FUTURE LEFT". SIAM EDITORIAL SAME DAY IS IN SIMILAR VEIN.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT PM THANOM, IN EXPLAINING SUPPLEMENTAL DEFENSE APPROPRIATION TO PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY, REPORTEDLY MADE STOUT DEFENSE OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND. THANOM IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID US PRESENCE "IS STILL NECESSARY" FOR SECURITY OF INDOCHINA AND THAILAND. TEXT OF THANOM'S REMARKS TO NEWSMEN AFTER PARLIAMENTARY SESSION FORWARDED SEPTEL. IN THEM PM REINFORCED DESIRABILITY US MILITARY PRESENCE. PRESS HERE INTERPRETS THANOM STATEMENTS AS REBUTTAL TO THANAT THOUGH PM DID NOT MENTION THANAT BY NAME.
UNGER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Draft Date: 11 MAY 1973
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: MOPS, TH
To: CINCPAC
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SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE
Type: TE
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